

Remarks

Entry of this Amendment after Final and reconsideration.

Entry of Amendment After Final

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment after final. The amendment does not change the scope or number of claims; no further searching is required. The amendment was not earlier presented as it was believed earlier presented arguments adequately addressed the underlying issue.

Telephone Interview

The undersigned acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy extended by the Examiner during a telephonic interview on July 21, 2004. During the interview, the basis for the remaining rejections was discussed. This amendment is submitted as discussed.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 2, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant requests that the phrase "group comprising" be changed to "group including" in claims 2 and 7 which were rejected and in claim 1 where a similar use appeared. This amendment is made without prejudice and does not change the scope of the claims.

In view of the proposed amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, have been overcome, and that the rejections should be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-10 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 14-17 of copending application no. 10/053,396.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this provisional rejection as this application is now otherwise ready for allowance and the subject copending application is still pending. Any

double patenting issues which may exist between the present application and the subject copending application can be adequately resolved during prosecution of the copending application.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that with entry of the proposed amendment, the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-22, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

July 28, 2004
Date

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